

Fact Sheet: Retail Bakeries Surveillance Update: 1993-1999

Teens at Work: Injury Surveillance and Prevention Project

Occupational Health Surveillance Program

Bureau of Health Statistics, Research and Evaluation

Massachusetts Department of Public Health

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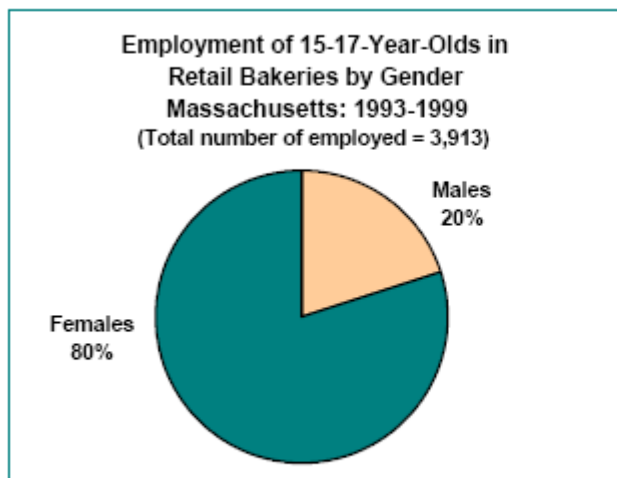
Background

Retail bakeries, including doughnut shops and bagel shops, are the third most common place of employment for Massachusetts teens. In 1996, the midpoint of the surveillance period, more than 3,900 15-17-year-olds in Massachusetts worked in retail bakeries. These teens represent 5% of all working 15-17-year-olds in Massachusetts. Retail bakeries are also the third most common place of occupational injury among teen workers in Massachusetts. Of the 3,389 injuries identified by the *Teens at Work Project* from 1993-1999, 7% occurred in retail bakeries.

Gender

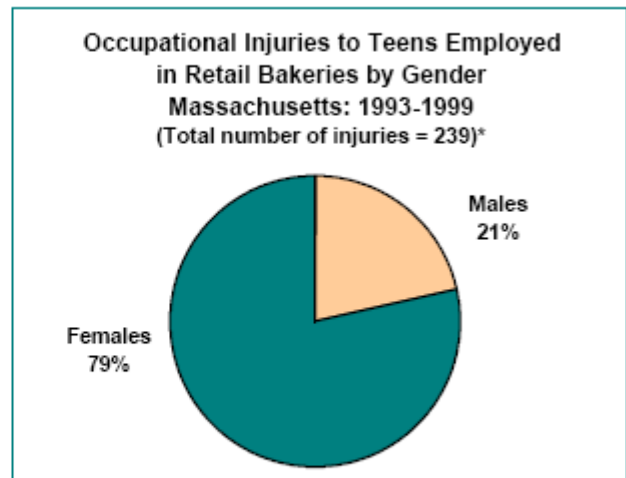
- Females were employed more often than males in retail bakeries. In 1996, the midpoint of the surveillance period, 80% percent of all 15-17-year-olds working in retail bakeries were females (**Figure 1**).
- Eighty percent of all injuries occurred among females (**Figure 2**).

Figure 1.



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics,
Current Population Survey: 1996

Figure 2.



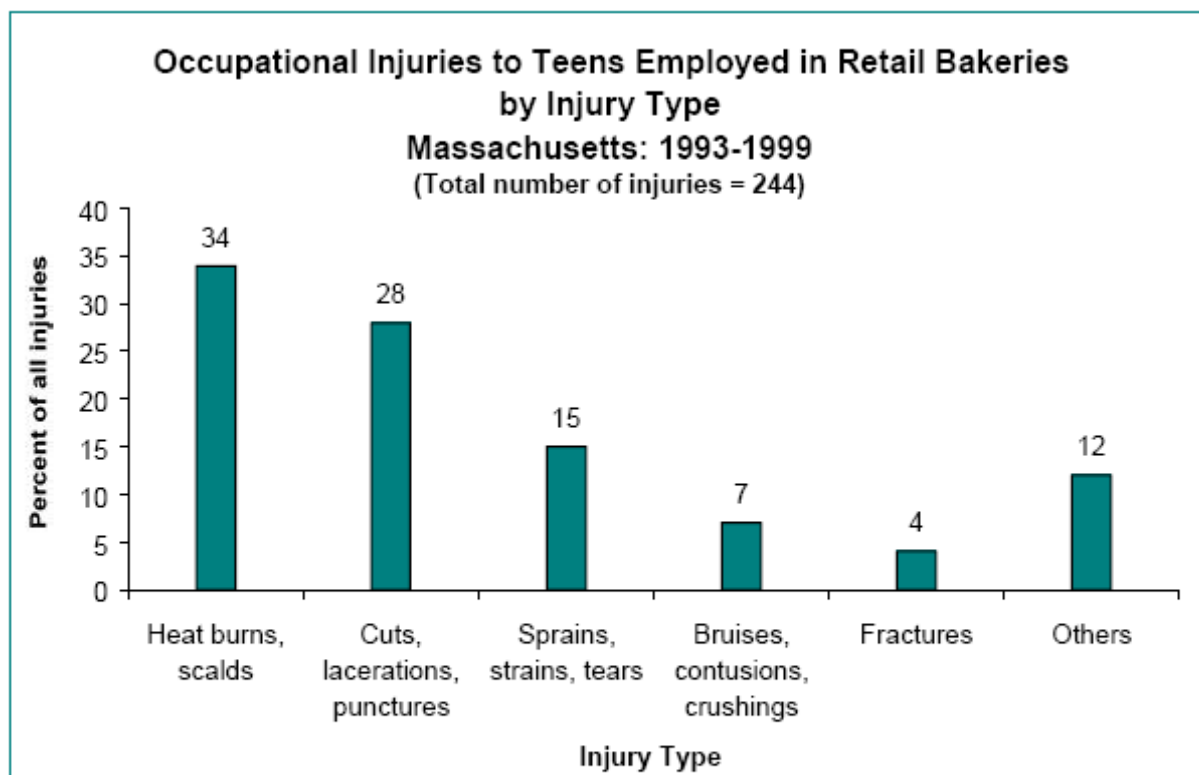
Source: Massachusetts Department of Public Health
BHSR&E, OHSP

* Information on gender was unavailable for five cases.

Injury Type

- Heat burns and scalds were the most common types of injury sustained in retail bakeries, accounting for more than one-third of all injuries (**Figure 3**).
- The second most common types of injury sustained in retail bakeries were cuts, lacerations, and punctures (28%); followed by sprains, strains, and tears (15%).
- Cuts, lacerations, and punctures were the injuries reported most frequently by hospital emergency departments, whereas heat burns and scalds were the injuries most frequently identified through Workers' Compensation claims. If all hospital emergency departments in Massachusetts reported cases to the surveillance system, cuts, lacerations, and punctures would be more predominant.

Figure 3.



Source: Massachusetts Department of Public Health, BHSR&E, OHSP

Injury Type by Gender

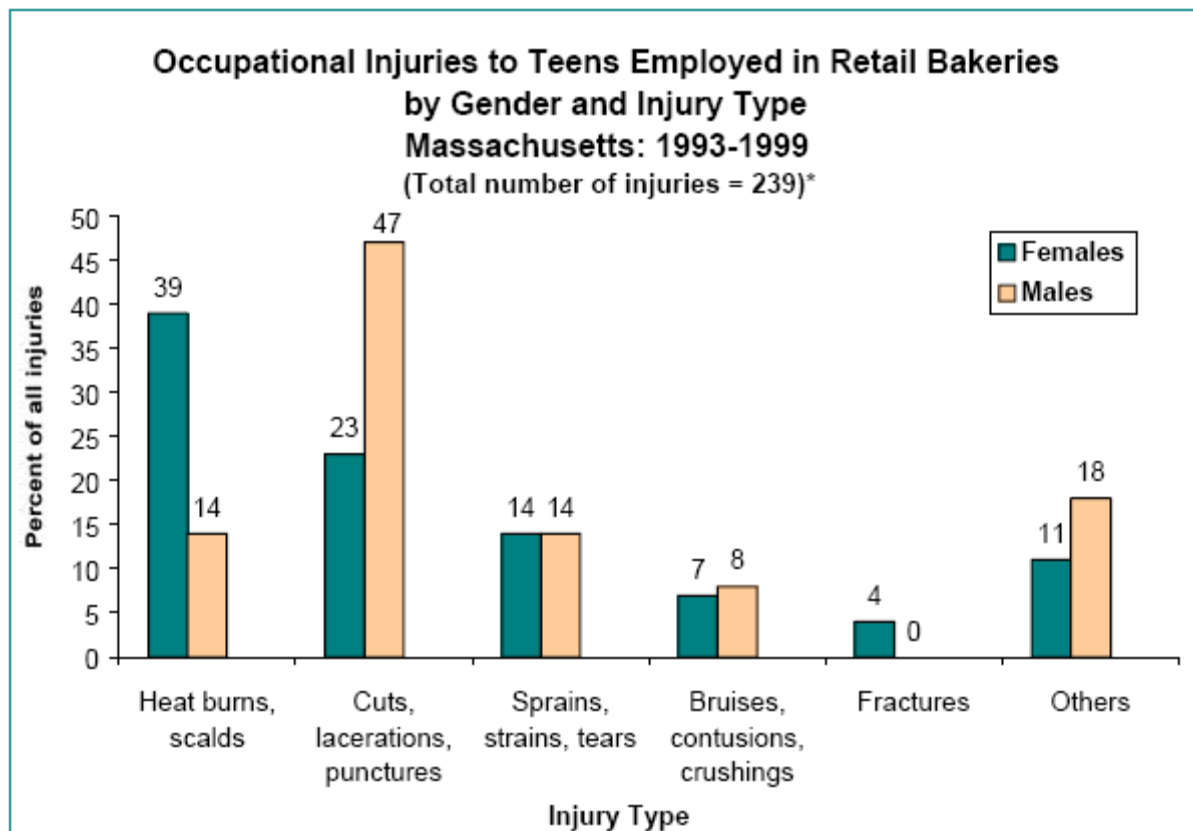
○ Injury type varied by gender for Massachusetts teens working in retail bakeries. Heat burns and scalds (39%) were the most common types of injury sustained by females. Among males, heat burns and scalds accounted for only 14% of all injuries. In addition, all of the fractures occurred to females (**Figure 4**).

○ Nearly half (47%) of the injuries to males were cuts, lacerations, and punctures compared to 23% for females.

○ The distributions of sprains, strains, tears, and bruises, contusions, and crushings were similar for males and females.

○ The injury distributions by gender do not necessarily mean that females are at a higher risk for particular injuries. Further research is needed to determine why the kinds of injuries sustained by young male workers differ from those sustained by young female workers. These differences might be explained, at least in part, by the different tasks assigned to young male and female workers.

Figure 4.



Source: Massachusetts Department of Public Health, BHSR&E, OHSP

*Information on gender was unavailable for five cases.

Heat Burns and Scalds

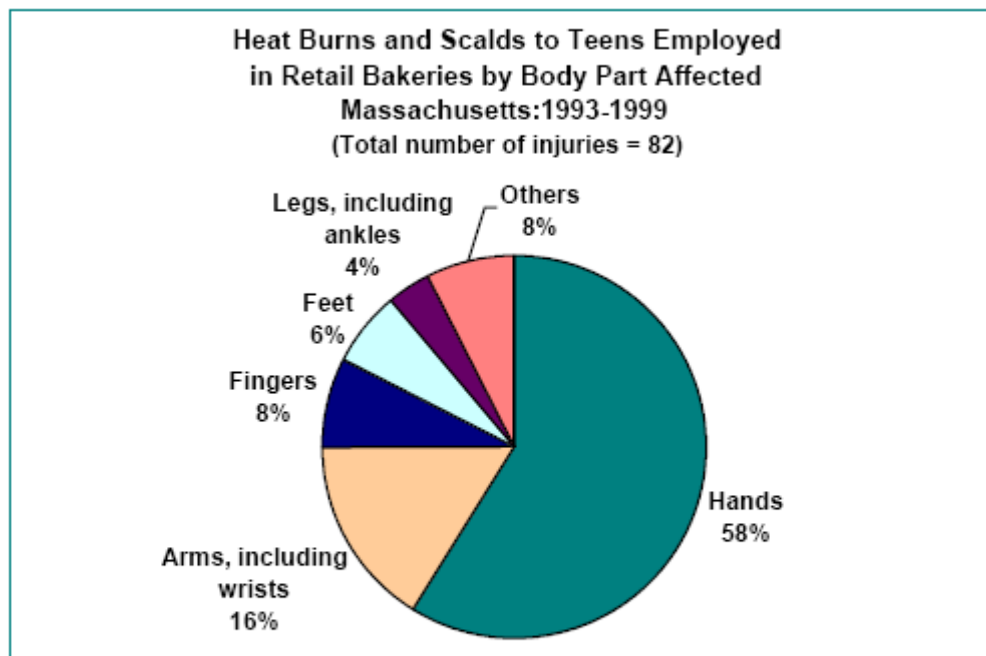
I was working alone. I opened the brew basket on the coffee maker to make another pot of coffee. The basket was still filled with water and the hot grinds and water spilled all over my hand. I called the store down the street (a franchise of the same name) and asked for the manager, but he had gone home. A friend of mine and her mom work at that store, so they called the manager at home and then came to my store. I called my mom, and she came and took me to the hospital.

15-year-old cashier

At the time of the interview, the teen expected to have permanent scarring.

- The upper extremities, including the hands (58%), arms (16%), and fingers (8%) were affected in more than 80% of the cases (**Figure 5**).
- The lower extremities, including the feet (6%) and legs (4%) were affected in 10% of the cases.
- Descriptive information regarding injury circumstances was available for 40% (33) of the cases. Hot coffee was listed as the source of injury in 51% of the cases and hot water was listed as the source of injury in 18% of the cases. For 36% of the cases, heat burns were caused when a brew basket was removed from the coffeemaker before the brew cycle was complete.

Figure 5.



Source: Massachusetts Department of Public Health, BHSR&E, OHSP

Cuts, Lacerations, and Punctures

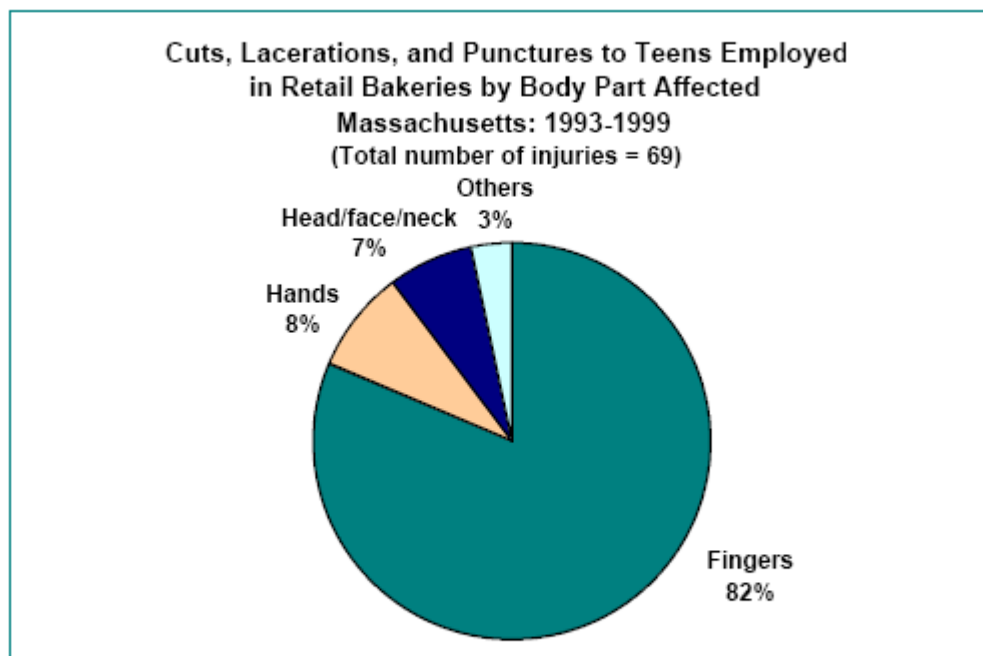
I was working at the drive-up window and a customer requested strawberry milk. I had to walk around the refrigerator in the dining area to get it. The floor was slippery, probably because of mopping and snow. As I started to walk back with the milk, I slipped and fell forward on the floor. My face hit the floor and I blacked out.

15-year-old counter help

At the time of the interview the teen expected to have permanent scarring above the eye.

- Fingers and hands were affected in 90% of cases (**Figure 6**).
- Cuts, lacerations, and punctures affected the head, face, and neck in 7% of cases.
- Descriptive information regarding the injury circumstances was available for 36% (25) of the cases. Knives were listed as the source of injury for 52% of the cases. Five injuries occurred when a worker was using a knife to cut a bagel.

Figure 6.



Source: Massachusetts Department Of Public Health, BHSR&E, OHSP

Sprains, Strains, and Tears

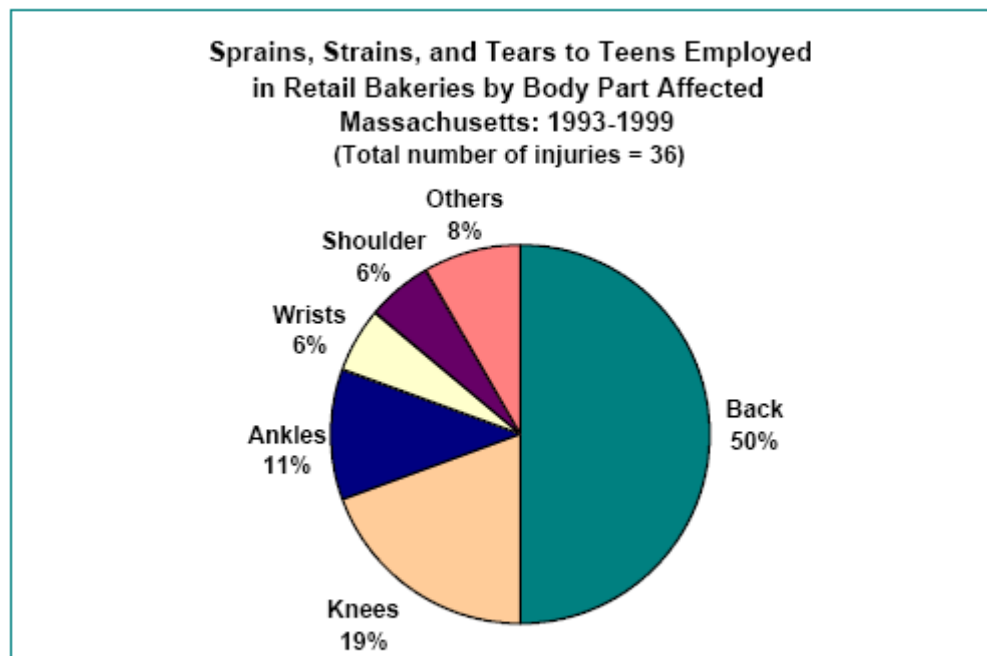
One night I was closing the shop, which I did a few times a week. I locked up the store and was taking the garbage outside to the dumpster. It was a really heavy bag. I tried throwing it over the edge of the dumpster and I heard my arm and back snap. I tried to stretch out and I sat in my car for a few minutes, but I was still in pain. I went home and called my doctor, and she told me to go to the emergency room.

17-year-old cashier

At the time of interview, the teen was still experiencing pain and limited activities.

- Sprains, strains, and tears affected the back in 50% of the cases (**Figure 7**). Back injuries are of particular concern because workers with back injuries may be at increased risk for subsequent back injuries.
- The lower extremities, including the knees (19%) and ankles (11%) were affected in 30% of the cases.
- Descriptive information regarding the injury circumstances was available for 61% (22) of the cases. Slips and falls were listed as the cause of injury for half these cases; five of the slips and falls occurred because the floor was wet. Lifting was listed as the cause of injury for 23% of the cases. (*Information regarding the cause of the falls was unavailable for the remaining cases.*)

Figure 7.



Source: Massachusetts Department of Public Health, BHSR&E, OHSP

What Injured Teens Have to Say

Teens at Work Project staff completed phone interviews with 37 young retail bakery workers injured on-the-job. While the information from these interviews is not necessarily representative of all young retail bakery workers who have been injured, it nevertheless provides some important insights. Of these interviewed teens:

- Fifty-four percent reported they had received no on-the-job training about how to work safely and avoid injury.
- Thirty percent reported they had no work permits (or educational certificates) for their jobs at the time they were injured. *NOTE: Massachusetts child labor laws require permits or certificates which are obtained through the school district where the teen resides.*
- As a result of their injuries, teens reported their usual activities were curtailed an average of 35 days.
- Seventy-three percent believed their injuries were preventable.